

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (withdrawn).

Claim 11 (presently amended): A polymer comprising (i) monomers selected from the group consisting of vanillin monomers, o-vanillin monomers, and mixtures thereof and (ii) monomers selected from the group consisting of 3-aminotyrosine, dihydroxy acetone, ~~3,4-dihydroxybenzoic acid, 3-amino-4-hydroxybenzoic acid,~~ aloin, emodin, alizarin, tyrosine, dihydroxyphenylalanine, 4,5-dihydroxynaphthalene-2-sulfonic acid, 3-nitrotyrosine, 3-dimethylamino phenol, p-aminobenzoic acid, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 12 (original): A polymer of claim 11, wherein said polymer comprises aloin monomers.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): A polymer of claim 11, wherein said polymer comprises dihydroxyphenylalanine monomers.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): A polymer of claim 11, wherein said polymer comprises aloin monomers and dihydroxyphenylalanine monomers.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): A polymer of claim 11, wherein said polymer further comprises a moiety selected from the group consisting of linoleic acid, 9,10-dihydroxystearic acid, linolenic acid, cholesterol, dihydroxycarbazole, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): A polymer of claim 11, wherein said polymer has a molecular weight of from about 10 kd to about 50 kd.

Claim 17 (presently amended): A polymer of claim 12, wherein said polymer has a molecular weight of from about 10 kd to about 50 ~~40~~ kd.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): A polymer of claim 14, wherein said polymer has a molecular weight of from about 10 kd to about 50 kd.

Claim 19 (original): A composition comprising a polymer of claim 11 and cosmetically-acceptable topical carrier.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): A method of darkening the skin, said method comprising applying to said skin a composition of claim 19.